



LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR: ISSUES AND TRENDS IN RURAL COLLEGES OF JAMMU PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The current Research paper is aimed at to analyze the status of libraries and various challenges faced in the rural areas of Jammu Province of the state. The researcher has conducted interviews of various stakeholders during the field survey consisted of students for collecting the data to complete the present research work. And after gathering the information, it was found that the libraries situated in the rural areas were facing a lot of problems in delivering their services-disbursement of information and knowledge to the stakeholders. Despite of fulfilling the Information gap with application of information and technology, the libraries were unable to meet the demands even in old fashion. Therefore there is a high need of research in the area to make these libraries also as per as the level of modern libraries situated in the cities. The libraries in urban area have gone through the tremendous changes due to adoption of modern techniques in delivering the services to their stakeholders. There is easiness in managing the books, issuing and returning the material which seemed lacking in the rural context.

KEY WORDS: Library, ICT, Information Gap, Services.

1. Introduction

It is well evident fact that the library every time had a kind of constancy in its importance and functions, a commitment to preserve the culture in a dynamic context. It stands for recording the past and future and also ensures the use of that record throughout the time. With the advent of Information, Communication and Technology, most libraries in this twentieth first century are migrating from traditional library settings and provision of services to the digital or electronic library settings. Today there has been a great shift in the status of libraries. There is a shift from library to library sciences. It can be described as a multidisciplinary area of study and includes different activities namely collection, processing, organisation, preservation and dissemination of various types of information resources in different types of libraries and enabling of maximum use of information by information clientele. Traditionally libraries often used paper or printed material as an information resources, but modern libraries uses wide spectrum of electronic and non printed materials also within the area of library system and services.

This is however not true of most public libraries in Jammu and Kashmir in general and selected colleges in the particular. Most public libraries situated in various colleges have not been able to computerize their collections, not to even talk of using computers to provide services, but rather they are still indulging in the use of traditional library setting to provide services to users and in that also failure has been noticed.

On the other hand, the financial crisis is not the only problem, but public libraries also lack an adequate and professional work force needed to handle the affairs of the library. Even with the availability of few staff, the inability of the state government to train them in the field of library profession to some extent affects the quality of services rendered by them. So therefore, the main library activity now has been remained just to serve as reading and study rooms for students, who in the majority of cases use their own materials and do not consult the library collections.

1.2. Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the level of student's satisfaction with the services rendered to them by their college libraries in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts.
2. To explore the challenges faced by the students in these colleges libraries.

1.3. Research Questions

1. How much satisfied the students are with the knowledge and material they get from their library?
2. What are the challenges confronting effective services to the students in their college libraries?
3. What is the infrastructure related issues encountered by the students in using the libraries?

1.4. Methodology

Methodology the research design adopted for this study is the survey design. A questionnaire was used to collect the data to complete this study. Questionnaire was administered to 90 recently pass out students of three colleges-Government Degree College Kishtwar, Government Degree College Ramban and Govern-

ment Degree College Doda in rural Jammu province. A simple percentage technique was used to analyse the data.

1.5. Findings and Discussions

Table No.1: Do you visit your college library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	86.66	13.33	0
2	Doda	30	100	0	0
3	Ramban	30	83.33	16.66	0

Field Survey, 2017

The vast majority of the collegiate were found visiting the libraries in their respective colleges. Among the all three, Government Degree College Doda has one of the highest percentages of respondents who visited the library.

Table No.2: Do you issue the study material for home study

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	33.33	66.66	0
2	Doda	30	36.66	63.33	0
3	Ramban	30	26.66	73.33	0

Field Survey, 2017

Very less collegiate were interested in issuing the material for home study from their libraries. And majority of them in all three colleges were unable to issue the material for their home study. This highlighted the lack of awareness, low motivation and incompatibility among the collegiate towards using the library material.

Table No.3: Do you use the book to read it within the library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

The whole student community in the colleges were unable to consult the library book while sitting within their libraries premises. There is no provision for using the library book just to read it within the premises of library. The candidates are allowed to read the books only if he or she issues the books in his/her name.

Table No.4: Do you use library regularly

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

There is no candidate who had visited the library regularly. All the students used their libraries occasionally due to certain unfavourable reasons. The irregular use of library has threatened its significance and role for knowledge building among the students in the colleges. The response of the students highlighted drawbacks of the libraries to attract the students.

Table No.5: Does the college library provide you adequate books related your study

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	33.33	60	6.66
2	Doda	30	36.66	60	3.33
3	Ramban	30	26.66	60	13.30

Field Survey, 2017

No doubt, it is very difficult for a student at college level to judge the quality of a book but according to their personal experiences, very few students were satisfied with the both quality as well as quantity of books available in their college library. The respondents highly dissatisfied with the quality and quantity of books were from Government Degree College Ramban.

Table No.6: Does your library motivate the students for intensive study

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

Lack of freedom to use the books for study within the library premises coupled with other reasons had prevented the students to develop the intensive study habits. Despite of the narrative based on their personal experience, none of the students were Agreed with the importance of libraries to develop reading habits among the students.

Table No.7: Does the college library fulfil the gaps of classroom teaching

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

No doubt modern class rooms have been described as a place for idea generation rather than merely teaching learning exercise. But at the same time it has been failed to achieve its all goals in practice. The gaps kept in the class could be filled by the libraries with their high stock of informative material. But in all the colleges, libraries were ineffective to tackle this issue. For instance, none of the students were able to use his/her library to fill the gap kept by the teacher in the classroom.

Table No.8: Do you have separate study cabins in your library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

Libraries have been famous for avoiding the all types of disturbances and providing all provisions of congenial atmosphere- specifically the separate cabin facilities.

But presence of such facility to develop the concentration among the students was badly neglected in all three colleges.

Table No.9: Do you get the books always issued that you want in your library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

Due to shortage of copies of books or study material, the students were unable to issue the books on their will. Many times students has to return back without issuing the books from the libraries due to unavailability of material of their interest.

Table No.10: Do you issue the study material during your final exams in the college library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

There was high demand of books and study material during the final exams. The students who remained non seriousness throughout the year also interested in their studies during the exams. But it was very difficult for the whole student community to either use their libraries or issue any book from during such crucial times. For instance, before appearing in the exams the candidates had to submit their Identity Cards with resolving all the inconvenience.

Table No.11: Do you reissue the book while returning it to the library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	6.66	93.33	0
2	Doda	30	16.66	83.33	0
3	Ramban	30	3.33	96.66	0

Field Survey, 2017

In rule book of the colleges, there is no provision for reissuing the books or any other study material in all three libraries. But in practice, while taking the figures into account, there had been discriminatory policy of library staff towards the vast majority in the case. For instance, only few students were able to reissue the books due to their personal links with the staff. Such attitude of the staff had prevented the vast majority of students from studying their unfinished material.

Table No.12: Do you renew/access the books through online means in your college library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

In the age of digital library, there was no provision of reissuing or accessing the material through online means in any of three libraries. Students were unable to make online assessment of book stock in their libraries.

Table No.13: Do you have an adequate staff to attend you while visiting the library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	50	50	0
2	Doda	30	60	40	0
3	Ramban	30	40	60	0

Field Survey, 2017

Table No. 13.1: Are you happy with the behaviour of library staff

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	10	60	30
2	Doda	30	10	90	0
3	Ramban	30	16.66	83.33	0

Field Survey, 2017

There are two or three library personnel in each library to attend the visitors in all three colleges. Despite of satisfaction shown regarding the strength of library staff by 50 percent of respondents in Kishtwar College, 60 in Doda College and 40 of in Ramban College, the vast majority of them were dissatisfied with the behaviour of their library staff. The personnel were unable to attend the visitors humanistically or as par as their aspirations.

Table No.14: Do you enjoy the peaceful atmosphere while sitting in the college library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1	Kishtwar	30	0	100	0
2	Doda	30	0	100	0
3	Ramban	30	0	100	0

Field Survey, 2017

The library is considered as a best place for peaceful study but none of the students in all cases were satisfied with the atmosphere of their libraries. There was no difference found between a library and an assembly hall by the students.

Table No.15: Do you have the entire basic infrastructure (chairs, tables, fans, lighting and rooms) in your library

Sr. No.	Colleges	No of candidates	Responses in Percentages		
			Yes	No	No response
1.	Kishtwar	30	10	60	30
2.	Doda	30	10	90	0
3.	Ramban	30	16.66	83.33	0
Infrastructure in the college libraries					
		Tables	Chairs	Rooms	News Paper Stands
1.	Kishtwar	5	30	1	Nil
2.	Doda	6	40	1	Nil
3.	Ramban	4	25	1	Nil

Field Survey, 2017

There was also lack of basic infrastructure in all three college libraries as high-lighted/ drawn in the table. A vast majority have shown their dissatisfaction over the lack of basic facilities in their respective college libraries namely number of chairs, tables, lightening and rooms. There is only one common hall in each library occupying twenty to thirty/fifty chairs and four to five tables. Such a limited infrastructure may prevent vast majority from sitting in their library.

1.6. Conclusions

The data shown in the tables' highlighted that most of the students interviewed were dissatisfied with the services and basic facilities in their college libraries. There was acute shortage of chairs, rooms and separate cabins in the libraries in all three colleges. Only few students could be accommodated at a time. There was hardly any internet facility in the colleges for students in general and in the libraries in particular to access the information. In addition to this, there was a low quality and quantity of study material namely books, news papers and magazines which has affected the quality of study among the students in these colleges.

On the other hand, lack of liberty to issue the books for the purpose of reading within the library had affected the study habit of the students. The special behaviour of library staff with the some students had created a feeling of inferiority v/s superiority among the students in the colleges. Prohibition of issuing the books during final exams has also affected the relation of student with library in the colleges. The most problematic issue highlighted in the study was that very few students are interested in visiting their libraries on daily routine base due to lack of student centric circumstances.

Suggestions

After exploring the ideal view of a library and its vital role in the daily life of students in general and collegiate in particular, the author has provided following suggestions:

- The college library must have an adequate atmosphere-space, sitting arrangement and privacy to create interest among the students to visit their libraries regularly.
- There is a need of high quality and quantity of books to make the students interested in intensive study habit.
- The librarian staff should attend the all students in a similar way and there should be no indifference in their response towards any student.
- The libraries should organise seminars and workshops to aware the students regarding the significance of libraries for students. This may help also in addressing the student's grievances.
- The library should be digitalized and has internet facility to quench the thirst of students for new information unavailable in a hard copy mode.
- There must be an objective type test to assess the students for their knowledge/information about the list of books or study material related to their respective subjects available in the libraries. And the students getting high marks in the test must be awarded. This activity may motivate the students for library use.

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